

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 127793

R 201449Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0654

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJ: ERITREA IN PARLIAMENT: AN IMPORTANT SESSION

REFS: (A) ADDIS 9859; (B) ADDIS 9869;

(C) ADDIS 9779; (D) ASMARA 689

1. IN WHAT MAY TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN SESSION OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE, PARLIAMENT, AUGUST 20, HEARD PRIMIN, MOD AND MININTERIOR PUBLICLY DISCUSS ERITREA WHICH, IN ITSELF, A PRECEDENT-SETTING EVENT.

2. ALTHOUGH SOURCES PRESENT IN CHAMBER SOMEWHAT DIVERGENT IN THEIR ACCOUNTS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED, IT SEEMS PRIMIN SET TONE, TELLING DEPUTIES THAT HIS CABINET WOULD SEEK SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM - A NATIONAL NOT A PROVINCIAL CRISIS - AS MATTER OF PRIORITY. PRIMIN DEPLORED BLOODSHED AMONG BROTHERS. HE ASCRIBED RESPONSIBILITY TO EARLIER GOVERNMENTS' MALADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAD WEIGHED NOT ONLY ON ERITREA BUT ON COUNTRY AS WHOLE--AND HINTED AT OTHER CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES (UNSPECIFIED). THIS STATE

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OF AFFAIRS, HE SAID, MUST AND WOULD BE ENDED BY COMMON EFFORT.

IEG WILL DEVOTE ITSELF TO THIS TASK IN INTEREST OF NATION WHOSE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INTER ALIA DEPENDENT ON EQUITABLE SOLUTION ERITREAN PROBLEM LIKELY PERMIT PRESERVATION NATIONAL UNITY. PRIMIN HOPED WHOLE NATION WOULD SUPPORT SEARCH FOR CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME SO AS TO LEAVE SEPARATISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS NO GROUNDS TO STAND UPON.

3. MOD THEN SAID THAT ARMED FORCES ALSO GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE DEPLORED ANCIENT REGIME'S RELIANCE ON FORCE AND LAID RESPONSIBILITY INTER ALIA FOR OM HAJER KILLINGS AT ITS DOOR. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD GO TO ERITREA AUGUST 26 TO INVESTIGATE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN PROVINCE AND START FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CABINET. IN SO DOING, HE HAD SUPPORT OF PRIMIN AND

AFCC. HE HOPED FOR THAT OF PARLIAMENT AS WELL.

4. MININTERIOR THEN SAID THAT CABINET SEEKING BRING ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN ERITREA (REF A). IT WAS LOOKING FOR NEW MEN TO PLACE IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. COMMITTEE OF ABLE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEN WOULD HELP WITH SELECTION. IT WOULD ALSO STUDY STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ERITREA AND DECIDE WHETHER IT COULD BE LIFTED.

5. MININT CLAIMED THERE WERE 189 ERITREAN POLITICAL PRISONERS (AS VS. 29 -- SIC -- ETHIOPIANS) BEING HELD FOR SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES. NATURE OF CHARGES AGAINST THESE ERITREANS HAD EXCLUDED THEM FROM AMNESTY. THE STATUS OF THESE PRISONERS TO BE REVIEWED BY CABINET AND AFCC IN LIGHT OF OBJECTIVES SUBSUMED UNDER "ETHIOPIA FIRST" MOTTO. FINDINGS OF MOD FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO PROVINCE WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

6. SPEAKER THEN STATED HOPE OF HOUSE THAT AS RESULT THESE EFFORTS, ERITREAN DEPUTIES WHO HAD EARLIER RESIGNED THEIR SEATS WOULD PROVE ABLE TO RESUME THEM.

7. ERITREANS REMAINED ABSENT THROUGHOUT BUT THEIR LETTER OF RESIGNATION (CF REF C) WAS READ, AS WAS LETTER FROM DEPUTY GRAZ. ABRAHA HAGOS, ABSENT IN ERITREA, WHO ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH RESIGNATION OF HIS PEERS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS09890
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Errors: N/A
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